

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicant wishes to thank Patent Examiner Christopher Bottorff for the many courtesies extended to Mr. Anton Burger and Mr. Herbert Antensteiner who are Applicant's European Representatives, and to the undersigned attorney, during the Personal Interview on November 1, 2006, at the U.S.P.T.O. The substance of this Personal Interview is set forth in the Examiner Interview Summary and in this Amendment.

The amendments to this patent application are as follows.

The Patent Examiner has stated in the Interview Summary that in claim 1 the terminology "top of the ski" should be changed to "tip of the ski." This change was made to claim 1.

Please note that claim 1 was also amended to overcome a minor informality discussed during the Personal Interview wherein the word "roughness" was inserted into the last line of the claim such that it reads "which is more pronounced than the surface roughness of the top layer."

Presumably claims 1 and 39 which have been elected based upon the Restriction Requirement and which are now under examination by the Patent Examiner should be found allowable. The remaining claims are either "withdrawn," claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 33, 37, 38, or "cancelled," claims 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 27 to 31, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41.

Thus, the expressions "tip" and "roughness" have been inserted into claim 1 to make claim 1 clear and to distinguish over the prior art. In this way, claim 1 now refers to the "tip of the ski."

For all these reasons, all the claims are now in complete compliance with all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Referring to the Office Action dated September 19, 2006, it is respectfully noted that claims 2-4, 6-14, 19-26, 32-33, 37 and 38 have been withdrawn from further consideration. It is believed that claim 1 can be read on the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 15. All these figures also show at least the embodiment as recited in claim 1. The fact that FIGS. 1 and 2 also show additional features (especially a grip-enhancing runner-surface) should be acceptable in view of the fact that the scope of the invention is defined by claim 1 and not by features which are (additionally) shown in different drawings.

It is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be modified to include not only claims 1 and 39, but also claims 2-4, 6-14, 19-26, 32, 33, and 37-39. These claims should be maintained in the present patent application. The dependent claims mentioned before refer to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 15. Thus, these withdrawn claims should be examined and allowed, since each depends from allowable claim 1.

All these drawings refer to a grip enhancing zone on the top-layer of the ski between the binding-mounting-region and the tip of the ski as claimed in claim 1. Hence, these drawings and the above mentioned claims concern a unitary inventive concept and therefore they should also be allowable.

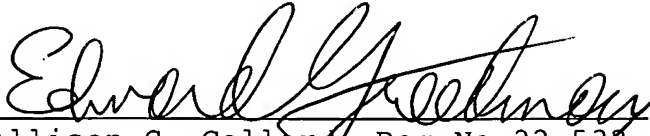
The prior art references to *Golling* (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,357 A) and *Berta* (U.S. Patent No. 3,437,345 A) relate to completely different structures for enhancing the slipping assistance of the sole-surface of a boot with respect to the top surface of a ski or snowboard. The inventive ski as defined in amended claim 1 cannot be disclosed in this prior art, nor is it suggested to a person skilled in the art by this prior art.

For all these reasons, none of the prior art references provides an identical disclosure of the claimed invention. Hence, the present invention is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102, but is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over all the prior art cited by the Patent Examiner. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

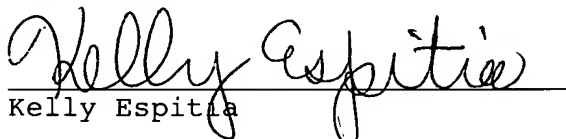
A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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